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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE PUUHONUA COMMISSION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in ancient Hawaii  
2 specific sites were set aside in each district and designated as  
3 places of refuge. These sites, known as puuhonua, were used as  
4 sanctuaries for women, children, old or ailing men in times of  
5 war; vanquished warriors fleeing from their would be  
6 annihilators; criminals fleeing from vengeful pursuers; and law  
7 breakers fleeing from punishment. The puuhonua were inviolable  
8 and their protection extended to the guilty as well as the  
9 innocent. These sanctuaries further served as healing centers  
10 and were safe, secure areas intended to provide a haven and  
11 positive benefit for those utilizing them.

12       The legislature further finds that the concept of puuhonua  
13 can be revitalized within today's correctional system to support  
14 men and women who have previously made wrong decisions in their  
15 lives. The legislature additionally finds that puuhonua should  
16 be incorporated into the State's correctional system and  
17 department of public safety.



1       The purpose of this Act is to create a puuhonua commission,  
2 within the department of public safety, to provide formerly  
3 incarcerated individuals a place to heal or become whole again  
4 in a way that benefits society and a puuhonua commission  
5 advisory committee within each county to advise the puuhonua  
6 commission on local needs of the county.

7       SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to part I, to be appropriately  
9 designated and to read as follows:

10       "§353-       Puuhonua commission; established. (a) There is  
11 established within the department of public safety for  
12 administrative purposes the puuhonua commission. The commission  
13 shall work with post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and  
14 parolees to assist these individuals in the transition post-  
15 incarceration to society. The commission shall develop  
16 partnerships with businesses, nonprofit organizations, churches,  
17 unions, government agencies, schools, and other entities and  
18 organizations that focus on assisting post-incarcerated persons,  
19 parolees, and probationers. The commission shall develop a  
20 network of support and assistance to address housing,  
21 healthcare, vocational training, skill building, drug treatment,



1 job searches, counseling, mentorship, mental health issues, and  
2 other needs of post-incarcerated persons, parolees, and  
3 probationers, as necessary.

4 (b) The commission shall meet at least once each quarter  
5 to: review data and information from the commission's network of  
6 support; review data provided by government agencies and  
7 partners; interact with those who are in need of or who are  
8 utilizing the commission's services; and address other issues as  
9 needed.

10 (c) The commission may make recommendations to the  
11 governor, legislature, county mayors, and county councils on  
12 matters relevant to the commission's work.

13 (d) The commission shall consist of nine members to be  
14 appointed as follows:

15 (1) Three members shall be appointed by the governor  
16 pursuant to section 26-34; provided that at least one  
17 member shall be a former inmate;

18 (2) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a  
19 list of nominees submitted by the president of the  
20 senate;



1       (3) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a  
2       list of nominees submitted by the speaker of the house  
3       of representatives; and

4       (4) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a  
5       list of nominees submitted by the office of Hawaiian  
6       affairs.

7       (e) The terms of the members shall be four years, and no  
8       person shall be appointed consecutively to more than two terms,  
9       in accordance with section 26-34.

10       (f) There is to be established in each of the counties of  
11       the State a puuhonua commission advisory committee. Each  
12       committee shall consist of three members to be appointed as  
13       follows: one member shall be appointed by the governor pursuant  
14       to section 26-34; and two members shall be appointed by the  
15       mayor of the appropriate county. Each committee shall meet at  
16       least once each quarter. Each committee shall inform the  
17       puuhonua commission of the needs of probationers, parolees, and  
18       post-incarcerated persons within the county.

19       (g) Members of the commission and the advisory committees  
20       shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed from the  
21       puuhonua commission special fund for necessary and reasonable



1 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, including  
2 travel expenses, pending availability of funds.

3 (h) There is established in the state treasury the  
4 puuhonua commission special fund, into which shall be deposited:

5 (1) Appropriations from the legislature; and

6 (2) All revenues from grants or donations made to the  
7 commission.

8 Moneys in the puuhonua commission special fund shall be  
9 expended by the department of public safety to support the  
10 puuhonua commission and puuhonua commission advisory  
11 committees."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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**Report Title:**

Puuhonua Commission; Post-incarcerated Persons; Reintegration;  
Special Fund

**Description:**

Establishes the puuhonua commission within the department of public safety to help post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and parolees reintegrate into society. Creates county advisory committees to advise the commission. Establishes a special fund. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

